



LARC



Volume 54, Number 10

OCTOBER 2014

President's Message

Wow! I think that we will finally see Fall this year. On two separate days I felt a cool breeze outside. Seems like we always are anticipating the next season when we are getting mighty tired of the season we are in... I have been cutting grass on a 4-day schedule lately with all the rain, which leaves little extra time for the big ham radio projects.

I did manage to modify my ZS6BKW with a plug-in unit to allow auto tuning of the 80/75 meter band, per instructions by Cecil Moore, W5DXP, on his web site at: <http://www.w5dxp.com/ZS6BKW80.HTM>. Both Galen and I bought the required capacitors at our hamfest to give it a try. Galen had his modified before me. When inline, I get a SWR dip at about 3.750 MHz and when it is removed, the minimum defaults to about 3.500 MHz for CW. That allows me the use of three antennas to check in to the nets on Sunday night.

I hope all members who attended the September meeting went away with a better understanding of the digital modes and FLDIGI. I know I did. Thanks to all who presented and offered comments. I managed to get my FLDIGI interfaced again to my FLEX radio after deleting the radio software in my troubleshooting efforts to get it working again. (It turned out to be a bad FireWire cable). It works again, but needs fine tuning on the AGC and signal levels like I had one before.

Well, I started the research for a remote antenna switch. I had some vague plan to modify the relay's contacts to minimize the length for the connection, which would reduce the loss and improve the isolation between switched lines. Today I did a renewed search and behold there is available on EBay a PC board and all parts with an optimized design. He claims 69 dB isolation for his design using standard relays. The wonder of the internet. The seller is from Czechoslovakia and sells the PC board for \$7 and \$5 shipping, with all parts it is \$45 for 4 ports and \$75 for a 6-port unit, minus the control switch box and the enclosure for the switch. (If you order one, remember to use PayPal not your credit card.) Not a complete solution, but a great start! Now I need to get a relay on order to see if it can be modified for even better isolation.

Sandy has been feeling better this last week. She has nearly all the information for the Tour du Teche ready for mailing. She has even been replacing me for some of the clothes washing and dish stacking. Too bad, I may lose my job just as I was beginning to learn how it's done. Welcome back Sandy!

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD
AARA President

AARA GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, October 2, 2014 @ 7:00 PM at
the Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat Street,
Scott, Louisiana.

VE Testing @ 6:00 PM

Tour du Teche Canoe Race coming up this
weekend will be discussed.

Editor's Notes

Well, it looks like Fall is in the air and like Larry says, it feels good to have some cool air outside. Some of the things coming up are:

The Tour du Teche Canoe Race taking place this weekend, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Check out their website at:

<http://www.tourduteche.com/>

Sandy KE5KJF will be filling us in on the race at the General Meeting Thursday night. She will be passing out schedule sheets for those who will be participating in this race.



Coming up on Saturday November 8, 2014, The Cajun Cup 10K Run will kick off in downtown Lafayette. Jess Gillion KF5LUL, is the Chairperson for this event. If you plan to help out on this event, contact Jess give him your "T" shirt size.



DATES TO REMEMBER**GENERAL MEETING**

October 2, 2014 @ 7:00 PM
 Red Cross Building
 101 N. Pat Street, Scott, LA.
 VE Testing @ 6:00 PM

Local 2-Meter Nets**Sunday**

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM
 147.150 PL 103.5 Carencro, LA

Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
 146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM
 145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Bodie's Memorial DX Net
 145.410 New Iberia, LA

Thursday

Youth Net 7:00 PM
 146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

AARA OFFICERS 2014 - 2015

President - Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD
 LarryJamesLeBlanc@centurylink.net
Vice Pres. - Jess Gillion - KF5LUL
Secretary - Sandy Leblanc - KE5KJF
Treasurer - Archie Hill—W5AG

BOARD MEMBERS

Paula Romero - KF5CNS
 Glen Thibodeaux - KF5FNP
 James Williams - KF5RBW
 Kendra Wilson - KF5FYS

QSL MANAGER

Roland Guidry - NA5Q

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The **LARC** is published monthly by the:

Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

P. O. Box 51174
 Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building, 101 North Pat Street, Scott, LA

SEPTEMBER AARA CLUB MEETING MINUTES**September 4, 2014****CLUB MEETING:**

- The AARA meeting was called to order by President Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD.
- Herman Campbell led the prayer and we all prayed for members who are healing.
- All said the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Members talked about interesting contacts during the month.
- 22 members attended the meeting.

Minutes: The August minutes were submitted by Herman Campbell, and they were posted in the September LARC. On motion by Fred Marshall W5MLE, seconded by Ric Wallace KF5KEL the minutes were accepted as published. I would like to thank Herman for doing the minutes for me while I was recovering from shoulder surgery. Good Job!

Also, thanks to Karen Marshall KE5RPI for giving me a summary of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Archie Hill W5AG gave the Treasurer's report for August 2014. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented on motion by Jim Barron WB5AAA, seconded by Jackie Wallace KF5PCH. The Financial Report is not published in the LARC; any member wanting a copy can contact Archie Hill W5AG.

Antenna Trailer: Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD purchased (1) 1" plank and (1) 2" plank to see which would work better for the flooring of the antenna trailer. Nick Romero KE5MWX, Trailer Upgrade Chairman, will go and see which decking would work better.

After that determination is done, we will get together and deck the trailer.

Electric Winch: After taking the electric winch apart, Larry determined that the metal parts were in perfect condition but the plastic housing was gouged out. It is not usable.

The crank-up winch has been reinstalled.

Up Coming Events: Simulated Emergency Test – October 9-10. Watch for Delta Division Plans for the event. Herman usually flags us.

Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day – September 18, 2014

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) October 16-17. Try to contact your local Scout Leader. Archie and Larry will check into the event.

New Business: Tour du Teche Canoe Race will be held on October 3-5. The race will start in Port Barre and end in Berwick. This year there will be a Mobile Command Center that will travel along the race route. The Mobile Command Center will stop in St. Martinville, Franklin and Berwick. It has a desk for the radio operators, air-conditioning, and an antenna installed on the roof. The volunteers for this year are as follows:

Herman Campbell KN5GRK, Glenn Thibodeaux KF5FNP, Ric Wallace KF5KEL, Jackie Wallace KF5PCH, Nick Romero KF5MWX, Paula Romero KF5CNS, Archie Hill W5AG, Dave Redfearn N4ELM, Kari Kuntz NU3I, Galen Wilson KF5BET, Abbi Wilson KF5BEW, Kendra Wilson KF5FYS, Jess Gillion KF5LUL, Nick Pugh K5QXJ, JoAnn Pugh KE5RPL, Jackie Price KA5LMZ and the BEARS, Larry LeBlanc KE5KFD, Tom Dischler W5OHJ (stand by) and Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF.

Roland Guidry NA5Q is answering the Field Day QSL card requests. He does it every year and deserves our thanks.

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP and Mark Saltzman W5GTI gave a hands-on presentation on FLDIGI. Many members brought their computers to practice and get them set-up. There was much discussion and a lot of learning. I did not know much about FLDIGI before the meeting and now I am at a point of trying it. Thanks to Glen and Mark and everyone who contributed to a wonderful presentation.

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD gave some additional "YouTube" videos for licenses listed below:

After much discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,
 Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF
 AARA Secretary 2014-2015

Technician Class Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEWmiMotimY&list=PLYH2CDtrmgX8yp3NdGx_yBPP12zbNSVt0

Electricity:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8w4QeaI5k8&list=PLYH2CDtrmgX8yp3NdGx_yBPP12zbNSVt0&index=5

Repeaters:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4opPi1hImOY&list=PLYH2CDtrmgX8yp3NdGx_yBPP12zbNSVt0



Amateur Radio Club of Central Louisiana Hamfest

Date: Saturday, October 18th, 2014

Time: 8AM-1PM

Location: Pineville Community
Center
708 Main Street
Pineville, LA

Admission: \$5.00 which includes
1 radio prize ticket

Main Prizes

1st Prize-Yaesu FTM-400DR
(2m/70cm) Fusion Radio

2nd Prize-MFJ-266 Antenna
Analyzer

3rd Prize- FT60R-(2m/70cm HT)

4th Prize-Ham in A Box

We also have \$300 cash prize
tickets for a separate drawing.

73's Steve Neesley, KE5IAK
President - ARCCLA
neesleys@bellsouth.net
Pineville, Louisiana



John Myrick, Jr. - NQ2V Silent Key

On Sunday, September 7, 2014 at the age of 79 John Myrick NQ2V became a "Silent Key" at his residence.

John was a long time member of the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (AARA) serving at times as President.

Those who knew him found that he was a very delightful and intelligent person to be around. He always had a very keen sense of humor.

I really can't tell you much about John, I can tell you that he was well knowledgeable in electronics and the days of tubes was his specialty. John was one who loved to build projects using tubes. He had a large stock of tubes and small parts such as resistors, capacitors, coils, tube sockets, you name it and he probably had it! If you attended the AARA Hamfest over the many years, you probably saw John's tables with some these items and some test equipment he had on display and for sale.

One of John's hobbies was working with wood, in fact, John created a replica of the Wouff Hong award (shown left) for our club which is a very remarkable work of art.

It was John's request that all of his radio paraphernalia be donated to the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc. and to be disposed of at the membership's discretion.

John's absence will create a large void in the ham radio world. Our prayers go out to Betty Myrick, family and friends.



Herman
KN5GRK

September General Meeting Presentation



Mark - W5GTI

The program for the September meeting consisted of a demonstration of the digital program FLDIGI by Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP and Mark Saltzman W5GTI.

All persons interested in FLDIGI was asked to bring their laptops with the program already loaded. Glen went through the basic setup program to get you started and then proceeded to answer any questions anyone had in mind, and there were quite a few.



Glen - KF5FNP Larry KE5KJD

Glen and Mark, using their laptops, Signalink USB sound card and handi-talkies, were able to send digital messages back and forth to each other on 2 meter simplex. Glen said that he would have liked to have more time to explain some of the messaging forms that can be used such as: NTS Radiogram, Red Cross message forms and other forms that can be utilized in FLSMSG. I picked up on a lot of things that I was new to me. Maybe at one of our next meetings the guys can go into more detail.

Herman KN5GRK

WD5CAE Antenna Party



Explorer 14 with 40 meter add-on



John KF5UMC on tower



Mel's tower - ready for beam antenna



John KF5UMC taking a break from heat

Mel's XYL, Esther N5OYP, spent time in the kitchen serving up food to feed the crew. Here is the menu: Italian spaghetti, Italian sausage, chicken, rabbit, meatballs, and a homemade chocolate cake with cream cheese icing and banana filling, enough to feed 14 hungry guys. This sounds better than working for money hi hi.

John, KF5UMC, done most of the tower work from what I understand. After everything was checked out it started to rain. Everything went well, no injuries occurred at this time.



Esther N5YOP in the kitchen

The crew did a great job!

KF5UMC John - KM5VF Pete - KD5JSM Danny - KF5THS AJ - Photos by Mel WD5CAE

My first SOTA Activation - by Dave Redfearn N4ELM



Happy Hiker

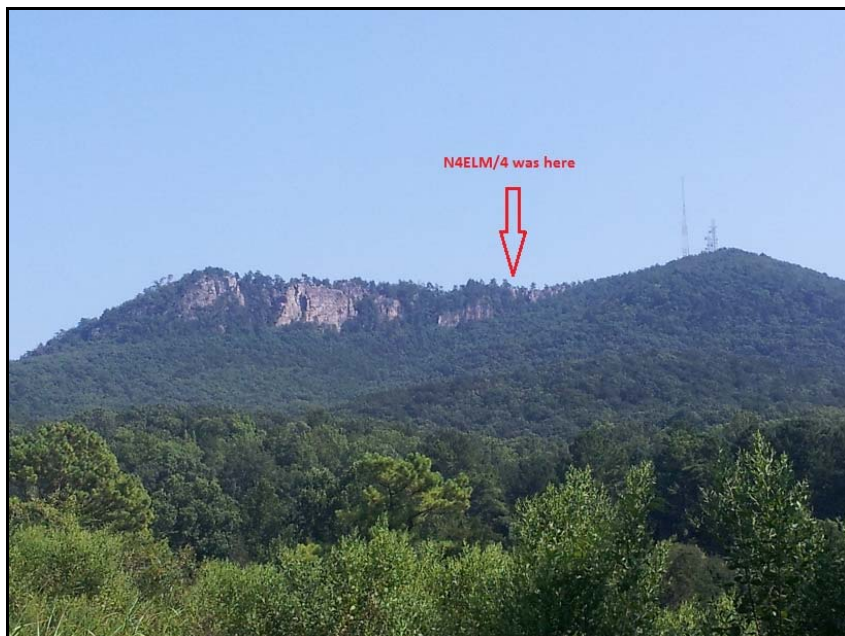
As part of a trip to North Carolina at the end of September, I went to try my first SOTA activation on Crowder's Mountain, NC which is located in western North Carolina between the cities of King's Mountain and Gastonia about 25 miles west of Charlotte.

SOTA (Summits on the Air) is an award program for radio amateurs that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. There are awards for Activators (those who ascend the summits) and Chasers (who either operate from home, a local hilltop, or are even Activators on other summits).

Activators cannot use a vehicle to transport radio gear to the



Crowder's Mt. Seen from US 74 in Shelby, NC

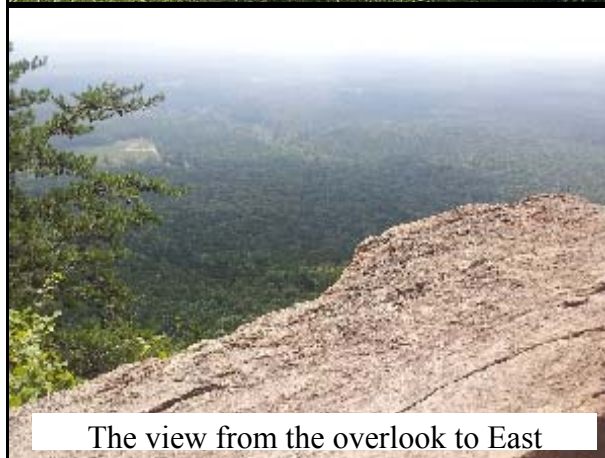


summit or operate from a vehicle, so radio gear must be portable. Operation on all authorized amateur bands and modes is allowed. Use of repeaters is not permitted. Additional information is available at the SOTA site:

www.sota.org.uk

Crowder's Mountain is one of two main peaks within Crowder's Mountain State Park. The park contains the entire ridge line of Kings Mountain and borders the Kings Mountain State Park and Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. Crowder's Mountain abruptly rises nearly 800 feet (240 m) above the surrounding terrain, and has an elevation of 1,625 feet (495 m) above sea level.

I picked Crowder's Mountain because it was the closest SOTA summit to where I was staying in Shelby, NC.



The view from the overlook to East

At the Linwood Road Access point, there are two trails to the summit, Backside and Tower. Backside trail is .8 miles and Tower trail is 1.8 miles, both are rated as "strenuous". For the hike up the trail, I carried the least amount of gear I could which was the Elecraft KX3, accessories, 4.2 AH battery, a 70 foot Off Center Fed Dipole, and a large bottle of water. I headed up Backside Trail as it was the shortest. I'm thinking, well I walk 2 miles every other day or so, I should be able to do a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile trail easily. **Wrong!** I made it up the trail about 200 yards before I had



Lots of steep steps!

to stop and rest the first time! Then the last quarter of the trail is a steep winding stairway of around 300+ steps. Eventually (about an hour) I made it to the overlook near the top.

(continued on page 6)

My first SOTA Activation (continued from page 5)

After I recovered, I set up the radio gear on flat rock outcropping. The OCF dipole was run directly from the radio and through the trees in a mostly north – south direction. With the battery, mike, and paddles connected, the radio was running and the tuner matched the antenna on 40 – 10 meters. I had started late in the morning and with the time spent getting up the trail it was close to noon when I got the radio set up. This was late Thursday morning, conditions were not very good on the bands, and there were not many stations around. I called Glen, KF5FNP to set up a contact with him on 20 Meters. While waiting for Glen, I worked W1AW/7 in AZ for my 1st contact. Glen was having trouble hearing my signal, so he changed rigs & antennas a



KX3, battery, OCF dipole - ON THE AIR !

Date: 29/Aug/2014 Summit: W4C/WP-011 (Crowders Mountain) Call Used: N4ELM Points: 1 Bonus: 0

Time	Call	Band	Mode	Notes
17:18z	W1AW/7	14MHz	SSB	Tom in AZ
17:22z	KF5FNP	14MHz	SSB	Glen
18:21z	W0MNA	14MHz	SSB	
18:22z	W0ERI	14MHz	SSB	
18:24z	N57P	14MHz	SSB	
18:25z	WA9HED	14MHz	SSB	
18:26z	VE2JCW	14MHz	SSB	
18:32z	K5WI	14MHz	SSB	
18:37z	W7RV	14MHz	SSB	
18:41z	N7AMA	14MHz	SSB	
18:51z	W1AW/7	18MHz	CW	

couple of times. I heard KF5FNP best when he was on the Tape Measure vertical antenna and Collins radio. I worked several more stations across the Midwest with the farthest contact being Oregon. Before packing up the gear, I flipped over to 17 Meters and worked W1AW/7 again, this time on CW.

Altogether, I spent about four hours on the mountain and worked eleven contacts. The hike back down the trail was pretty strenuous too. The

trail was very steep and I had to be really careful not to fall on the loose gravel, but getting down was much quicker, taking about thirty minutes to get back down to the Access Point, the car, and civilization.

I learned a few things that I will try to do differently next time to be more efficient on the air and more comfortable on the hike.

It was a really great outing and I had a lot of fun but I sure was tired when I finally made it back down.

73 – Dave, N4ELM

New \$21.40 Vanity Call Sign Fee Now in Effect

The new Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$21.40 became effective on September 11. The FCC released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O) on August 29, in which it recalculated the fee to \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.30 increase represents the largest vanity fee hike in many years. In the past, new vanity fees did not become effective until 30 days after their publication in The Federal Register, which occurred on September 11.

The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014, and that the vanity program generated an estimated \$230,230 in FY 2013 revenue. The Commission estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100 in FY 2014 vanity call sign fees.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable when applying for a new vanity call sign or when renewing any vanity call sign designated as "HV" in the FCC's ULS database.

As of October 1, 2013, the Commission no longer accepts checks -- including cashier's checks -- for the payment of regulatory fees. All payments must now be made by online ACH payment, online credit card, or via wire transfer. Any other form of payment will be rejected and returned to the applicant.



SEPTEMBER 2014 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	3	27	Ø	40	N5LRZ Ray
AARA Monday Night Net	4	63	Ø	126	W5GTI Mark
Acadiana ARES Net	2	12	Ø	40	N5LRZ Ray
Bodie's Memorial DX Net	3	19	3	42	N5LRZ Ray
Youth Thursday Night Net	4	67	Ø	120	KF5BEW Abbi KF5FYS Kendra

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”
– Calvin Coolidge

AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net Rotation

Mark W5GTI, the net control station, for the AARA Monday Night Net had suggested that the net be rotated between three different area repeaters. Here is the October 2014 schedule.

DATE:	TIME:	REPEATER:	PL TONE:
October 06	7:00 PM	147.040	103.5
October 13	7:00 PM	146.820	103.5
October 20	7:00 PM	145.370	103.5
October 27	7:00 PM	147.040	103.5

When using the SkyWarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL Tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8.

The October 2014 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website at:

[http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/files/monday net.pdf](http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/files/monday%20net.pdf)

Notice: On the January 13th, 2014 Monday Night Net, Mark made a offer that goes like this:

The top 10 check-ins on the Monday Night AAARA Net during 2014 will get their call/name entered into a drawing and winner will receive a Chinese import dual band handi-talkie paid for by Mark W5GTI. **HOW ABOUT THAT?** So be sure to check into the net and thanks to Mark in keeping the net active.

Playing with FLDIGI by Herman Campbell KN5GRK

As a newcomer to using FLDIGI software (thanks to Glen KF5FNP, Mark W5GTI and Dave N4ELM), I have found it to be a very powerful piece of software with a lot of capabilities. I have found out that Dragon Naturally Speaking voice recognition software works very well on digital modes, very little typing once you have trained Dragon, just talk and send.

I made my first contacts on Hellschreiber and RTTY on September 20, very interesting! Hope to do more as time goes by.

AARA



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

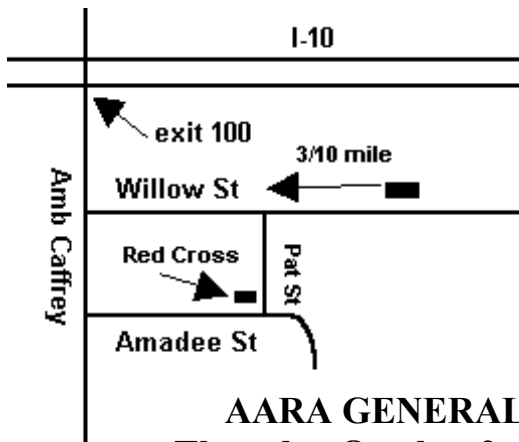
10/04 GREG	K5LFT
10/05 TOM	W50HJ
10/10 HERMAN	KN5GRK
10/17 KENDRA	KF5FYS
10/18 DEREK	WM5TS
10/23 ROLLAND	KE5MLA
10/27 LARRY	KE5KJD
11/07 LINDA	KA9TWO

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.



Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



Share the Fun - Bring a
Friend to be a HAM !

AARA GENERAL MEETING
Thursday October 2, 2014 - 7:00 PM
VE Testing Tonight @ 6:00 PM
Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA
Lunch Bunch - Each Wednesday 10:45 AM - 2:00 PM
Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA
Check 146.820 PL 103.5 - repeater for info.

COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE

Brown Sugar Carmel Pound Cake

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 1/2 cups butter softened | 1 teaspoon baking powder |
| 2 cups light brown sugar, packed | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup granulated sugar | 1 cup whole milk |
| 5 large eggs | 1 8 oz. bag toffee chips |
| 3 cups all-purpose flour | 1 cup pecans, chopped |

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 spray a 12 cup Bundt pan with cooking spray with flour.

Beat butter until creamy. Add sugars beating until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. In medium bowl combine flour, baking powder and salt. Add flour mix to batter alternately with milk, beat until just combined. Stir in toffee butts and pecans. Spoon batter into pan and bake 85 minutes or until wooden pick comes out clean. To prevent excess browning, cover cake with foil while baking.

Let cake cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pan, and let cool completely on a wire rack. Spoon Caramel Drizzle over cooled cake.

Caramel Drizzle:

- 14 oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions for Caramel Drizzle

In a medium saucepan, combine condensed milk and brown sugar; bring to a boil over medium-high heat, whisking frequently. Reduce heat, and SIMMER for 8 minutes, whisking frequently. Remove from heat; whisk in butter and vanilla. Let cool for 5 minutes before using. NOTE: Make sure you drizzle the caramel while it's still HOT



FCC Information Service

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/vanity call signs: 888-225-5322. This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:

ulscomm@fcc.gov.

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is:

Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245